



EXHIBIT A

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of: REID *et al.*

Application No.: 09/534,487

Group Art Unit: 1632

Filed: March 24, 2000

Examiner: Joseph T. Woitach

For: PROLIFERATION OF HEPATOCYTE
PRECURSORS

Attorney Docket No. 320727.00119

PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)(1)

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

03/26/2004 LWONDIM1 00000047 501710 09534487

01 FC:2253 Sir: 475.00 DA

Applicants in the aforementioned matter petition to extend the time for response to the Office Action dated September 25, 2003, Paper number 25, for three months from December 25, 2003, up to and including March 25, 2004.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 625-3500. All correspondence should be directed to our address given below.

AUTHORIZATION

Please find enclosed a check for \$475.00 in payment of the extension fee. Applicants believe there is no additional fee due in connection with this filing. However, to the extent

required, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees due in connection with this filing to Deposit Account 50-1710 or credit any overpayment to same.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Serge Sira", with a horizontal line drawn underneath the signature.

Serge Sira, PH.D.
Registration No. 39,445
Gilberto M. Villacorta, Ph.D.
Registration No. 34,038

Patent Administrator
KATTEN MUCHIN ZAVIS ROSENMAN
525 West Monroe Street, Suite 1600
Chicago, Illinois 60661-3693
Facsimile: (312) 902-1061

Dated: March 25, 2004